ANTIQUE AUTOMOBILE CLUB OF AMERICA

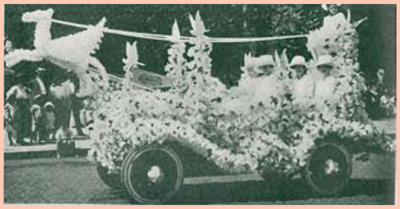
WHEELS

Winter 2013

Floats

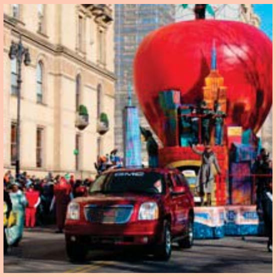
Do you like seeing the beautiful and elaborate floats in parades? Designing a float is a lot like decorating your home for Halloween or placing ornaments on a tree for Christmas. The only difference is that it moves!

The name "float" was first used in England to describe decorated boats in a parade called the Lord Mayor's Show. Since the event began in 1535, colorful boats would travel down the River Thames, and people began calling them floats since boats float on water. Since then, the name has been used to describe any vehicle decorated for a parade.



A Cartercar decorated with flowers in a 1907 parade

Once the automobile was invented, it gradually replaced horse-drawn carriages as the float vehicle of choice. Most of today's floats are either built around or towed behind motor vehicles. They are often decorated with flowers or special paper and, sometimes, even feature designs that move!



A GMC towing a New York City float in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade

A car transformed into a boat (1907)

An antique car, led by a butterfly

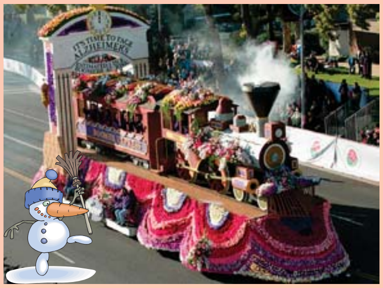
Before cars, floats were pulled by horses.

How to Decorate
Halls, Booths and Automobiles

PRICE 10¢

Published by Dennison Manufacturing Co.

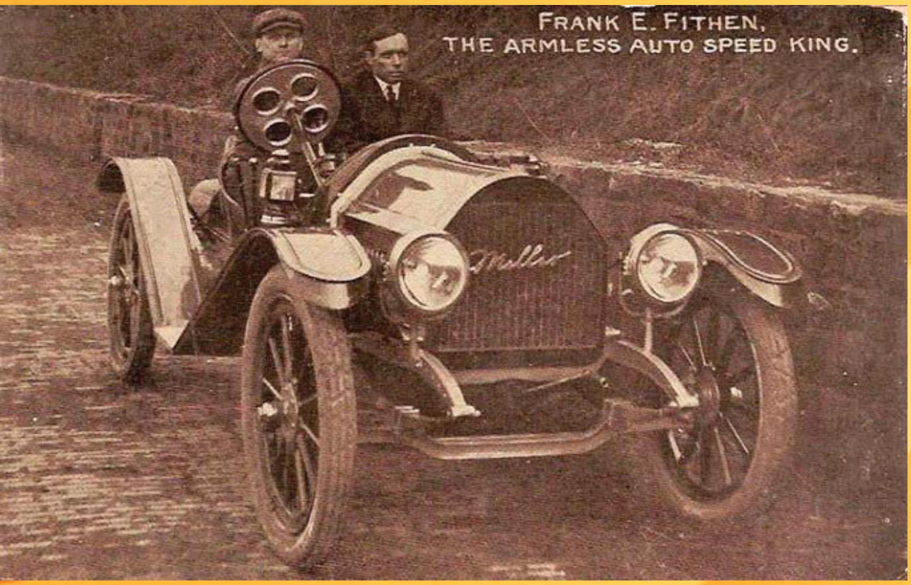
This 1927 guide had tips for decorating cars used in parades.



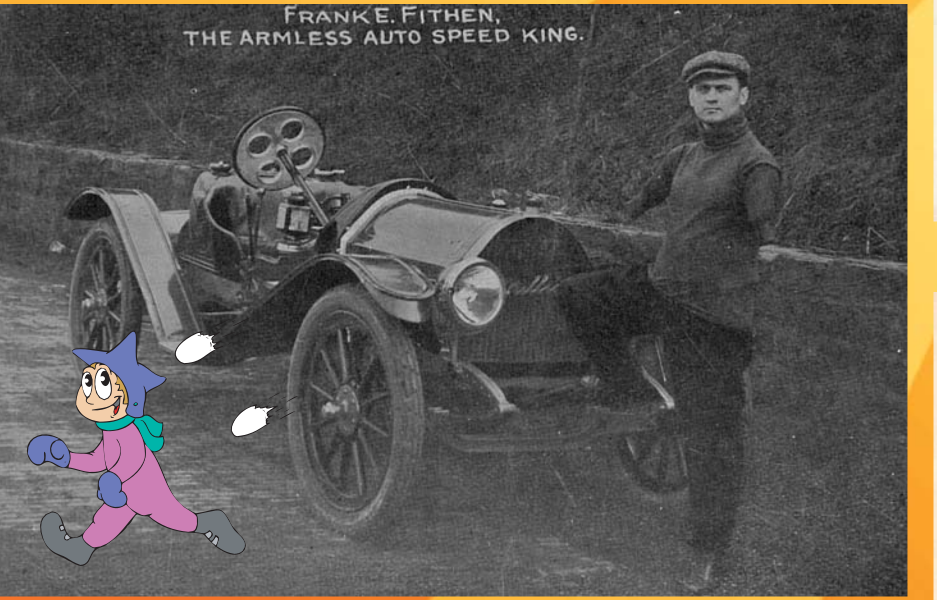
Floats in the Tournament of Roses Parade are very elaborate.

Toy Story float in Hong Kong Disneyland

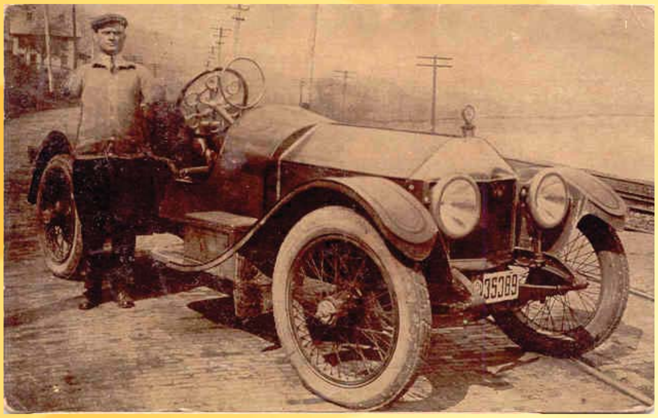
Frank E. Fithen


FRANK E. FITHEN,
THE ARMLESS AUTO SPEED KING.
Miller

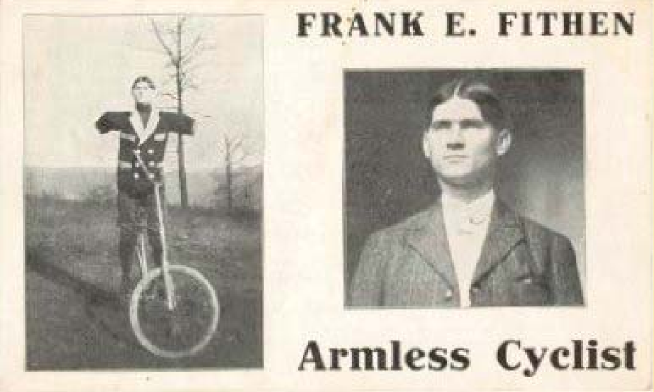
Fithen in his modified Miller


FRANK E. FITHEN,
THE ARMLESS AUTO SPEED KING.

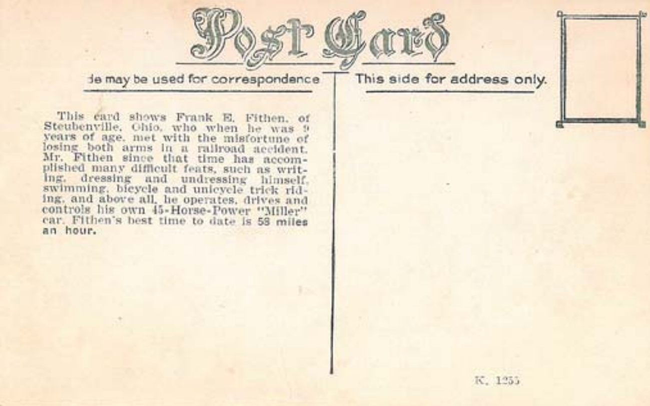
Fithen next to his modified Miller



Fithen with his modified Oakland



Fithen on his bicycle



Post Card

de may be used for correspondence

This side for address only.

This card shows Frank E. Fithen, of Steubenville, Ohio, who when he was 9 years of age, met with the misfortune of losing both arms in a railroad accident. Mr. Fithen since that time has accomplished many difficult feats, such as writing, dressing and undressing himself, swimming, bicycle and unicycle trick riding, and above all, he operates, drives and controls his own 45-Horse-Power "Miller" car. Fithen's best time to date is 58 miles an hour.

K. 1255

The description on the back of Frank Fithen's postcard

Imagine how different your life would be if you didn't have any arms. Even a task as easy as brushing your teeth would be challenging. Born in 1882, Frank E. Fithen was a real life example of a man who lost both his arms and had to learn how to do things in new ways. Instead of giving up, Frank pushed himself to do things other people thought he couldn't do, including driving a car.

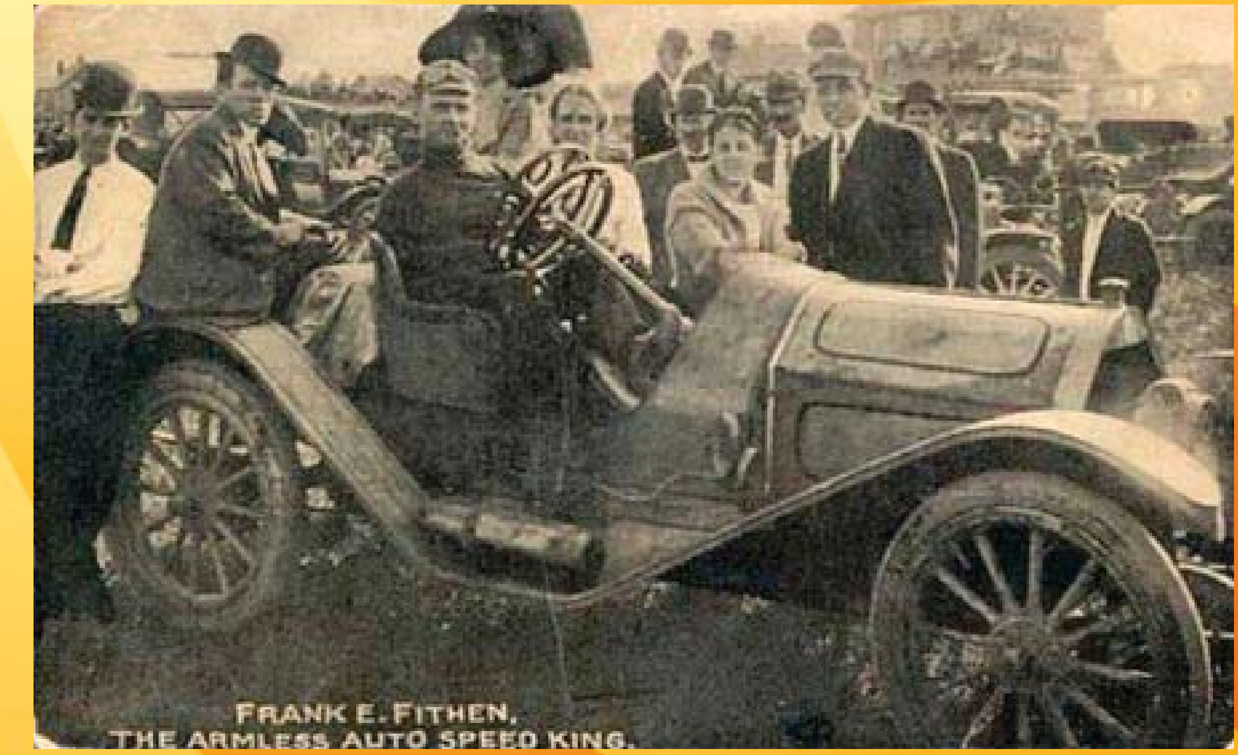
When Frank was a little boy, he was involved in a railroad accident that cost him both his arms. Although his arms were gone, his persistent spirit was not. Before long, he discovered how to dress himself and write with a pencil between his teeth. He even learned how to swim and ride a bicycle!

As a young man, Frank earned money as a street performer with people paying to see him do tricks on his unicycle (like a bicycle but with only one wheel). Between 1912 and 1913, he earned money by driving automobiles, including those made by Oakland and Miller. Traveling throughout the United States, he sold postcards featuring pictures of himself and his cars. By 1916, a magazine claimed he had already driven his Oakland more than 85,000 miles!

Because he loved driving fast, Frank also earned the nickname of the "auto speed king." His top speed was 58 miles per hour, which was considered very impressive back then. In the early 1900s, driving fast was very difficult because most roads were often bumpy and still paved with dirt. These conditions slowed cars down.

To drive his cars, Frank designed a special steering wheel featuring a series of rings. This design allowed him to steer the car with his shoulders. At the same time, he managed to use his feet to control the pedals and emergency brake.

Unfortunately, the details of Frank's later life remain a mystery because not much was written about him after 1917. Nevertheless, his story serves as an inspiration for all. With a positive attitude and enough motivation, you can accomplish anything.


FRANK E. FITHEN,
THE ARMLESS AUTO SPEED KING.

Frank Fithen in his modified Oakland

FIND THE PICTURES

Can you find each of these pictures at another place in this newsletter?

The topic for this issue: Wonderful Winter!

IT’S a BIR

What on earth is a DeLorean DMC-12, you might ask? Designed by John DeLorean, it was an automobile made in Northern Ireland between 1981 and 1982. What made this sports car unique was its stainless steel body (the same material your forks and spoons are made of!) and “gull-wing” doors (named after seagulls because the car looks like a bird when its doors are open). Another thing that made the DeLorean different was that it was made by a small company. The newly-formed DeLorean Motor Company had to compete with much larger and older car manufacturers, such as Ford and GM.

Unfortunately, the DeLorean Motor Company stopped making cars in 1982 because it wasn’t earning enough money. At a cost of $29,825, most people felt the cars were too expensive. To give you an idea of how pricey the DeLorean was, it cost almost three times as much as a 1981 Ford Thunderbird Heritage.

On top of that, bad publicity in the news caused people to lose faith in DeLorean cars. Early models had problems with electrical system failure, and many experts believed the car was slower than what the company claimed.

Thanks to the 1985 movie, *Back to the Future*, the DeLorean became popular throughout the world even though it was long gone. In the movie, a scientist named Dr. Emmett L. Brown converted the car into a stylish time machine. Unlike the real car, the movie version was able to fly and could be operated by remote control.

Even though John DeLorean’s company had dissappeared gone, his automobile is far from dead. Today, an American company named DMC Texas manufactures the famous car. They make about twenty each year, with eighty percent of the parts used having been made during the DeLorean’s original production. By 2013, they plan on selling an electric version. In a way, you could argue that the DeLorean has become the most successful car that ever failed!

O, IT'S A PLANE…NO… IT'S A DELOREAN!

This Delorean is coated with real gold. Only three were ever made.

The DeLorean in Back to the Future was able to fly.

The DeLorean DMC-12

A company is making a DeLorean bicycle that will cost $90,00.

John DeLorean and his famous car

One person created built a limiousine out of three DeLoreans.

Doc Brown and his DeLorean time machine

A red DeLorean

We need...
Short articles,
poems, photos,
crossword puzzles
and word searches
from our junior
members.

Please send to:
Chris Ritter
AACA Library & Research Center
501 West Governor Road
Hershey, PA 17033

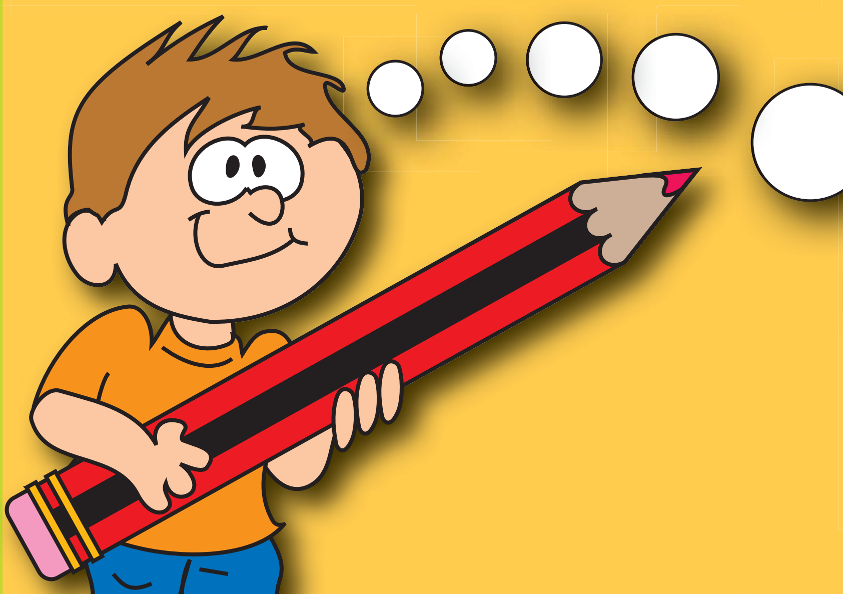
AUTOMOBIL

Across:

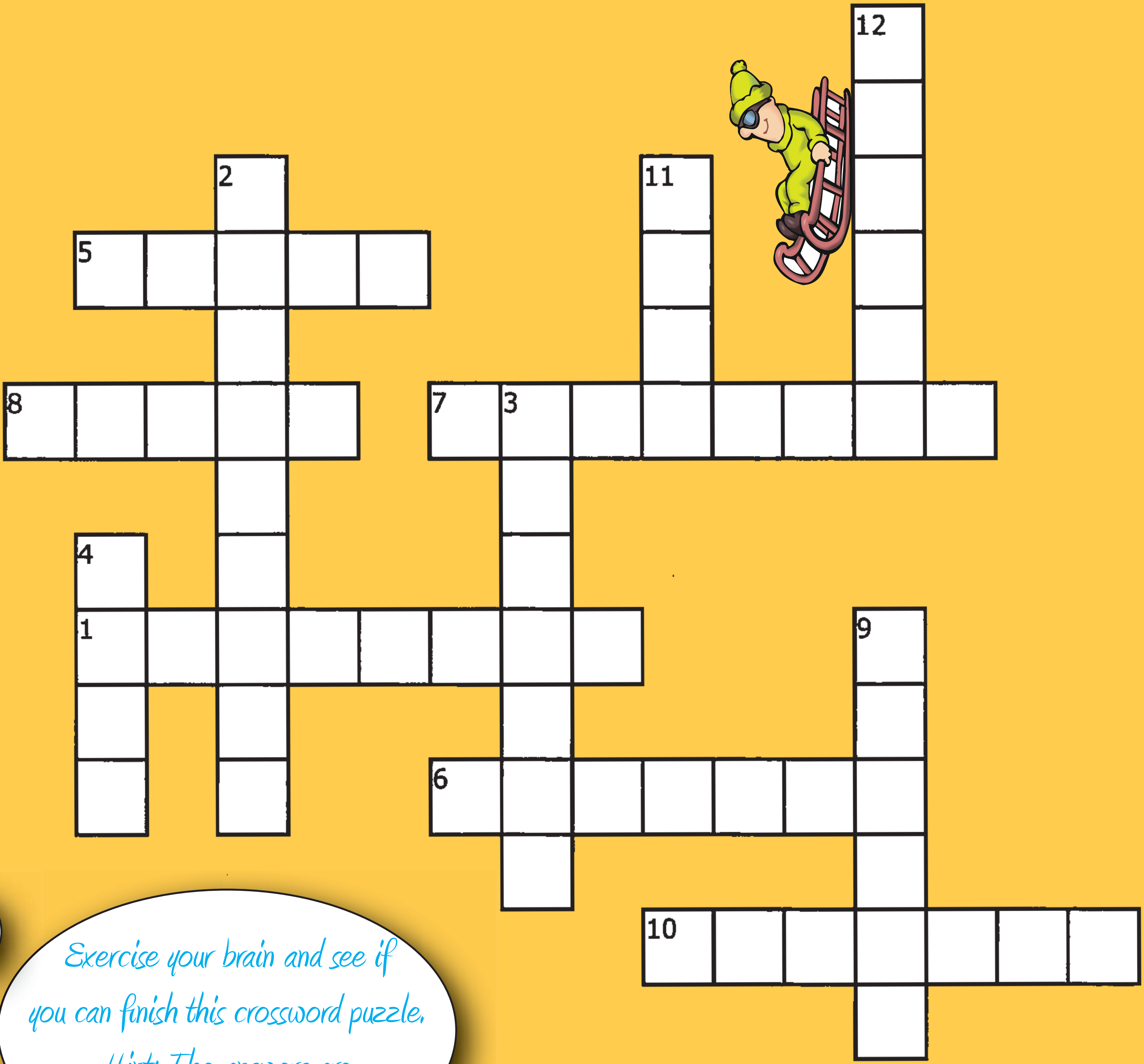
1. It's like a bicycle but has only one wheel.
5. Where are DeLoreans built today?
6. Which country first used the word float to describe parade vehicles?
7. Name of the souvenir that Frank Fithen sold to people.
8. What is one thing gas engines have that diesel engines do not?
10. Name of country where the DeLorean was first built.

Down:

2. One of the reasons people didn't buy DeLoreans was because they were too __________.
3. One of the cars driven by Frank Fithen was made by ___________. It's also the name of a city in California.
4. Because diesel engines are big and strong, they are like ______ wrestlers.
9. First name of the man who invented the diesel engine. Also the name of a famous reindeer!
11. The first vehicles to be named floats were not cars, but _________s.
12. Floats in the Tournament of Roses Parade are decorated with __________s.

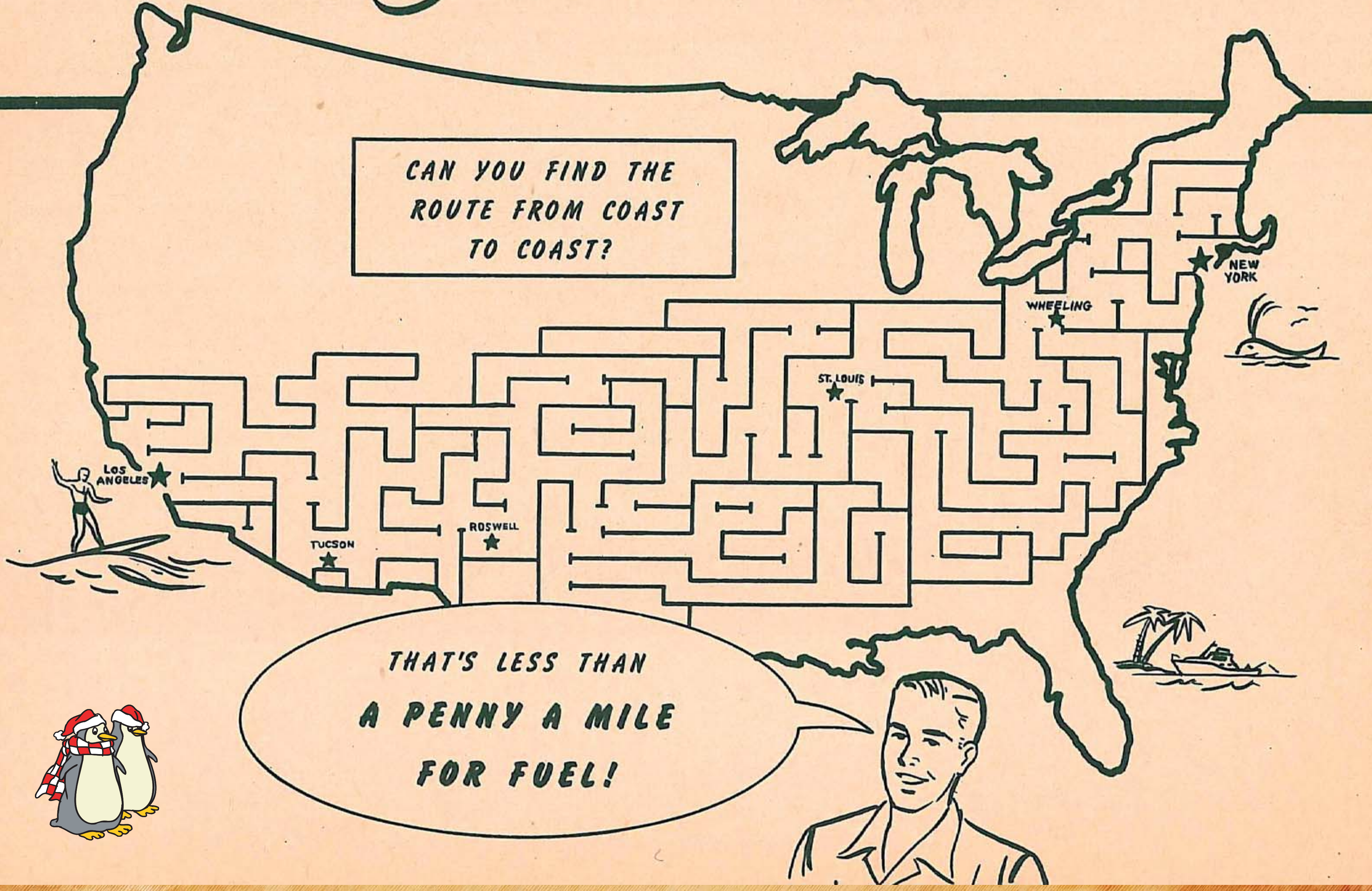


E CROSSWORD PUZZLE



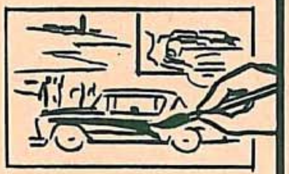
Exercise your brain and see if
you can finish this crossword puzzle.
Hint: The answers are
in the magazine!

COAST-TO-COAST IN A RAMBLER 6 ON LESS THAN 5 TANKS OF GASOLINE!



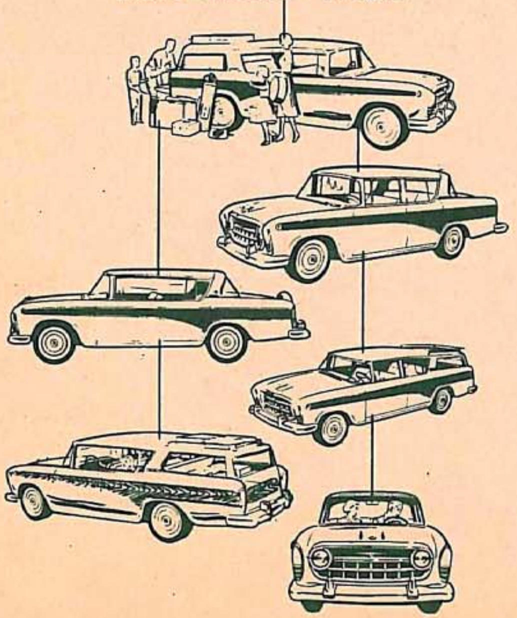
CAN YOU FIND THE ROUTE FROM COAST TO COAST?

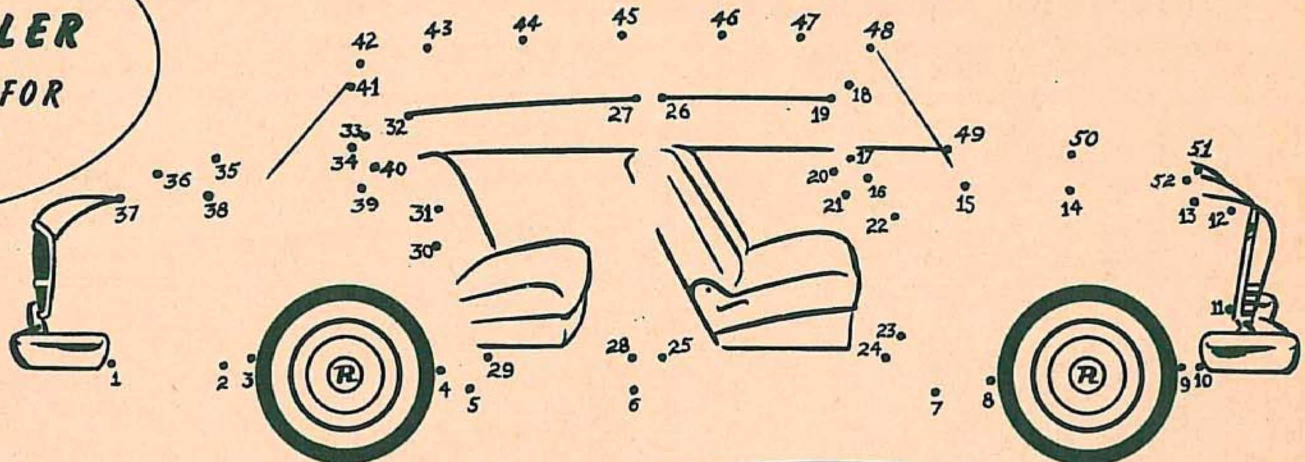
HEY GANG!
MAKE A **RAMBLER** **"DANGLER"** FOR YOUR ROOM!

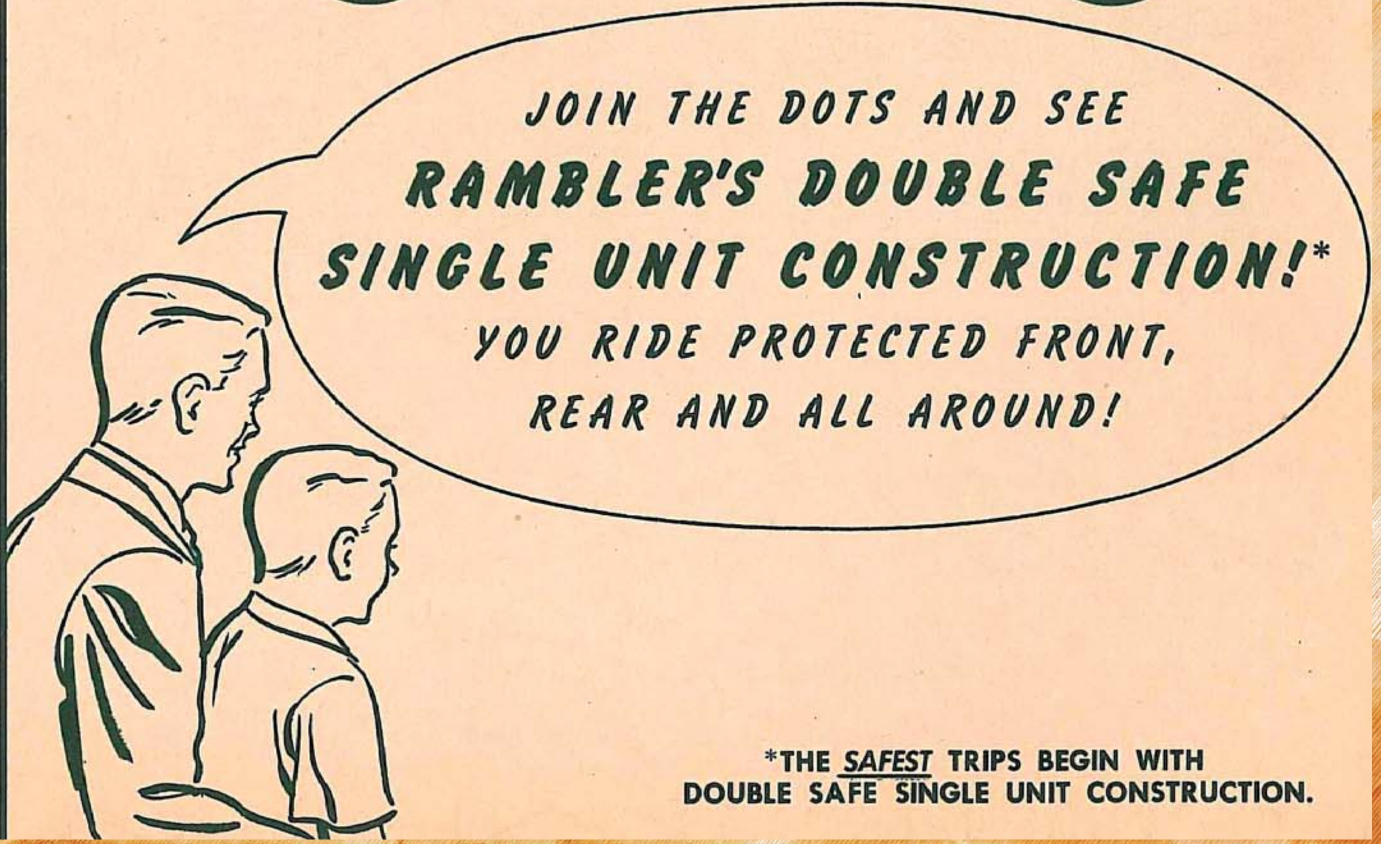


1. Color—then paste Ramblers on light cardboard and cut out. Be careful not to cut through car on reverse side of page.

2. Punch holes where indicated and join cars with string as shown to make attractive "dangler."



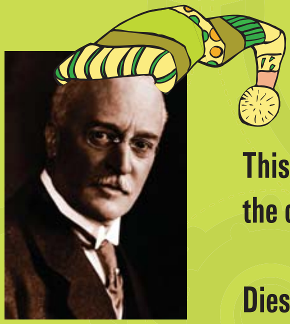



JOIN THE DOTS AND SEE
RAMBLER'S DOUBLE SAFE SINGLE UNIT CONSTRUCTION!*
YOU RIDE PROTECTED FRONT, REAR AND ALL AROUND!

*THE SAFEST TRIPS BEGIN WITH DOUBLE SAFE SINGLE UNIT CONSTRUCTION.

WHAT IS A DIESEL ENGINE?

We've all seen Big Rigs and Semi-Trucks pulling trailers but have you ever wondered what is powering them? The answer is the diesel engine. The diesel engine was invented by a man named Rudolf Diesel in 1893. The diesel internal combustion engine is like any normal gas powered engine with some small differences. They are found in big trucks and even small cars due to their efficiency.



Inventor
Rudolf Diesel

A normal gasoline engine works like a fire-cracker, it mixes the compressed fuel and air which is then ignited by a spark plug causing a mini explosion that makes the energy to push the piston in the engine that allows the car to move.

The diesel engine is like a flame thrower, it compresses ONLY the air causing it to rise to very high temperatures and then mixes in the fuel causing a mini flame torch. This flame produces the energy to push the piston that allows the car to move.

Diesel engines are like sumo wrestlers. They may be big and strong allowing them the power to tow and move a lot, but they lack the speed and horsepower that a smaller athlete or gas engine would have.

FUN FACT: Rudolf Diesel ran early diesel engines on peanut oil, instead of diesel gasoline, and with some changes under the hood, new diesel engines can run on vegetable oil too.

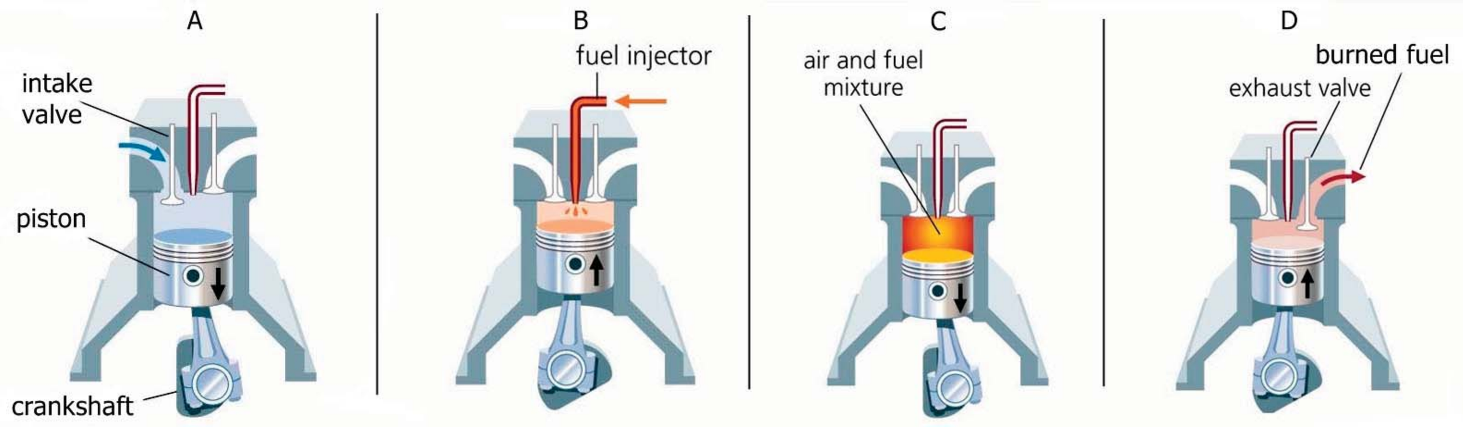
Semi Truck

Dodge Ram 2500 Diesel

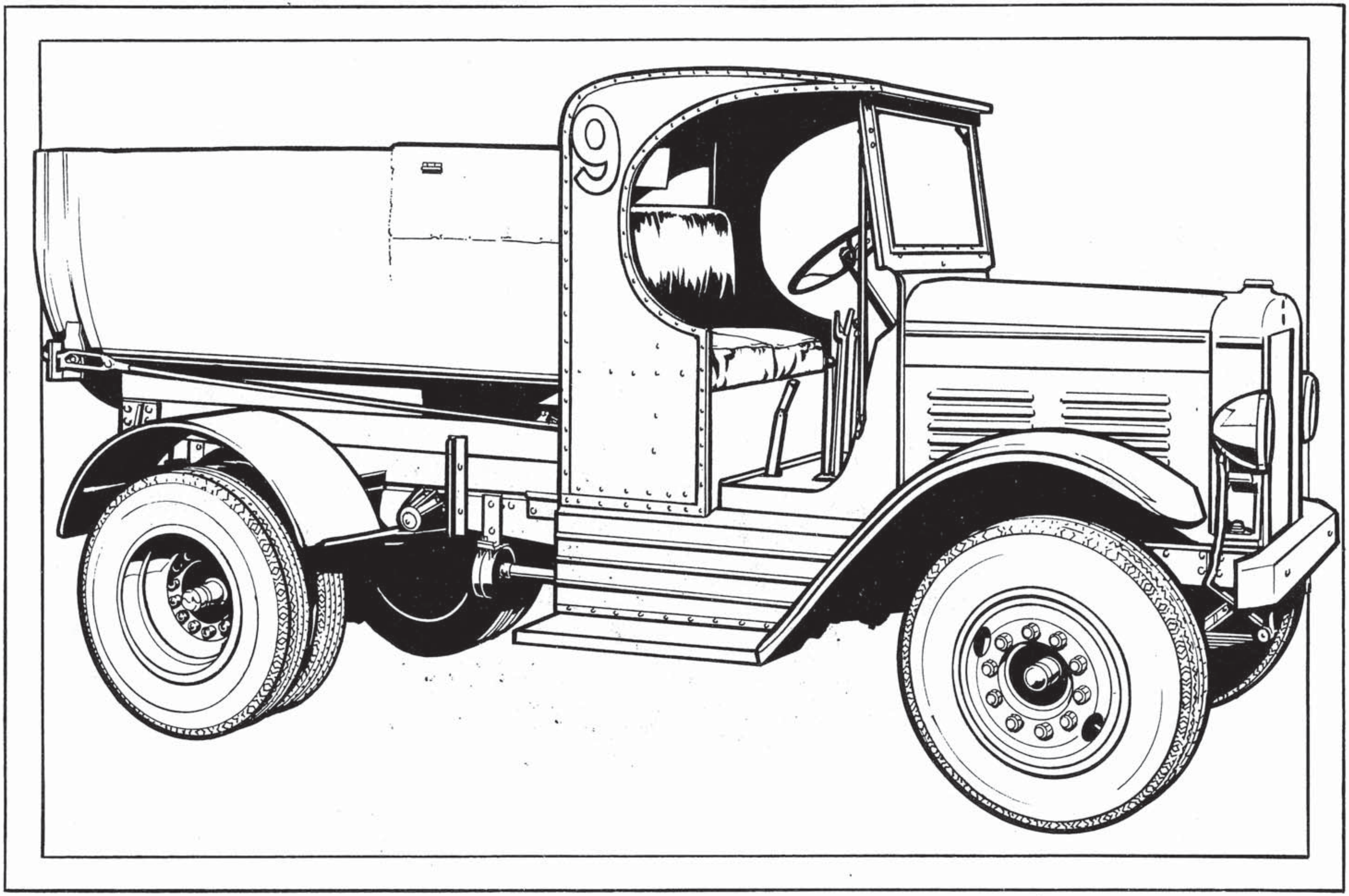
Mercedes-Benz 240D

A Diesel Powered
School Bus

VW Beetle Turbo Diesel
Injection (TDI)



How The Diesel Engine Works



1929 KENWORTH

This was a work truck that didn't even have doors. The only extra was a hand-operated windshield wiper.

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Application for Membership

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